

Testimony in Support of HR 31
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Project Safe Passage Great Lakes

The Detroit Audubon Society and Michigan Audubon request building owners and managers to help reduce bird deaths by turning off the lights or draw blinds/curtains above the 5th floor from 11:00pm to 6:00am during the spring and fall migratory seasons.

Specifically, occupants, security, and maintenance personnel are asked to leave offices dark at night or, if that is not feasible, to close the blinds.

Safe Passage is a recognition program which encourages building managers and companies to save birds. Certificates are awarded to participants and they are recognized in our website. Voluntary participation in Safe Passage actually lessens the chance of any future lighting regulation.

Many Benefits

In addition to saving birds, Project Safe Passage can help:

- **Save money:**
 - Some building managers in Toronto's program report saving \$200,000 annually on their lighting expenses.
 - An EPA building in Denver saves \$250,000 a year.
 - A DTE study estimates over \$60,000 a year will be saved at their headquarters. And, much more can be saved over a full year.
 - These savings flow back into the company and the economy.
- **Save the environment:** By cutting electric use, buildings will also cut CO2 and other pollution. The same DTE study estimates their headquarters building will reduce emissions of over two million pounds of CO2 a year by participating in Safe Passage. Participation can also be a tool in a green strategy to help reduce the carbon footprint.

Support continues to grow for Project Safe Passage:

- The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of SE Michigan fully supports the Safe Passage program.
- Many Detroit and Jackson area companies, organizations and buildings have already signed on, including DTE, Ford, Chrysler, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan, Coleman A. Young Municipal Building, Consumers Energy, Blake Building, Elaine Apartments and Nelson Towers.
- Governor Granholm has signed a proclamation supporting the effort as Safe Passage Great Lakes Days in Michigan. Other government organizations have also endorsed the program, with supporting proclamations including Macomb County and the cities of Southfield and Mt Clemens.
- Chicago, New York, Boston and Toronto have similar programs

The Detroit Audubon Society and Michigan Audubon ask for support of HR 31.

